

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /036 W  
-----000417 070546Z /21

R 061020Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8341  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1380

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, BG  
SUBJ: AGITATION OVER PAY SCALES

REF: A) 77 DACCA 7480; B) DACCA 0528; C) DACCA 1315 (NOTAL)

1. THERE CONTINUES TO BE SPORADIC UNREST AMONG  
VARIOUS GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND THOSE WHOSE SALARIES ARE  
PAID (OR MAY IN FUTURE BE PAID) BY THE BDG. DESPITE  
A GOVERNMENT PROMISE (REF B) TO LOOK INTO IRREGULARITIES  
AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO GOVERNMENT PAY SCALES ANNOUNCED  
LAST DECEMBER (REF A), SHORT SITDOWN STRIKES (CALLED  
"PEN" STRIKES) AND LABOR SLOWDOWNS HAVE OCCURRED.

2. TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH WORKERS STAGED A BRIEF STRIKE  
MARCH 2ND (REF C), AND ON MARCH 4TH DOCTORS AND NURSES  
AT TWO LOCAL HOSPITALS REFUSED AS A PROTEST FOR ONE DAY TO  
TREAT OUTPATIENTS. IN THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS, MANY DOCTORS  
HAD ALSO REFUSED TO WORK BETWEEN 11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.  
SCIENCE STUDENTS AT DACCA UNIVERSITY ALSO JOINED THE  
PROTEST. THE STUDENTS, WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO SIT SOON  
FOR M.SC. EXAMS, DEMANDED THAT GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION FOR  
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SCIENCE POSTGRADUATES BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE PAY OF  
DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS, WHO WERE MOVED ONE RUNG HIGHER  
THAN SCIENCE POSTGRADUATES ON THE NEW PAY SCALES. THE  
SCIENCE STUDENTS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FROM STUDENTS  
OF OTHER FACULTIES TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY MARCH 4. CERTAIN  
DEPARTMENTS REMAINED CLOSED ON MARCH 6; THERE HAVE BEEN  
NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE UNREST CONTINUES TO GROW DESPITE PUBLIC ASSURANCES BY SEVERAL ADVISORS THAT ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE. THE BRIEF STRIKES, WHICH ARE ILLEGAL (AS ARE ALL STRIKES UNDER THE 1975 LABOR LAW), INDICATE BOTH LOW MORALE AND GROWING IMPATIENCE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE RANKS, WHICH COVER A BROAD RANGE OF WORKERS IN BANGLADESH. IF STRIKES BECOME MORE PROLONGED, IF THERE IS GREATER COORDINATION OR IF THE POLITICAL PARTIES TAKE UP THE ISSUE, PRESIDENT ZIA COULD HAVE SERIOUS TROUBLE. AS IT IS, CORRECTING THE "ANOMALIES" IN THE ORIGINAL REPORT AND PLEASING THE DIVERSE GROUPS, WHICH ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH RELATIVE STANDING AMONG WORKERS OR SIMILAR CATEGORY THAN WITH ABOLUTE PAY LEVELS, WILL BE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TASK.

BERGESEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC ATTITUDES, GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, WAGE RATES, GENERAL STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DACCA01380  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780102-0414  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Message ID:** 7b39f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DACCA 7480, 78 DACCA 528, 78 DACCA 1315  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3110458  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AGITATION OVER PAY SCALES  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014